

Plant Disease in Kansas

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Summary of field crop diseases

Special points of interest:

- *Wheat harvest should pick up across the state during the next week after a significant delay of about two weeks.*
- *New staff join Plant Protection*

June has been extremely wet in some areas following a May where storms frequented the state.

In wheat, harvest has been considerably delayed in southern Kansas. Harvest began the first week in June in some counties such as Barber and Comanche. Since then wet conditions have delayed harvest in the south central counties where some fields have been abandoned without any hope of harvest. In limited survey, scab disease was not observed in northeast Kansas and in some of the south central area during the past two weeks. Sampling of harvested grain by KDA staff at local grain coops for export certification including Karnal bunt has been slow with

the harvest. Cooperative are reporting generally poor yields and test weights. Harvest will go full force in Kansas next week as weather conditions will become more ideal and the wheat fields are mature nearly statewide.

Survey in some of the summer row crops has been conducted in northeast Kansas. In corn fields in Shawnee and Brown counties, gray leaf spot was just beginning to develop. Lesions were on lower and middle canopy leaves. Corn was at about the 10 leaf stage. No disease was seen in Riley, Jackson, and Nemaha corn fields. It is anticipated that gray leaf spot may be farther advanced in south central fields where more rain has fallen

and historically has considerably disease history.

In soybeans, brown spot disease was seen in early planted fields in Shawnee County. No symptoms of Asian soybean rust were observed. Asian soybean rust has been detected recently in soybeans in southern Texas and bears watching by states directly north of Texas.

Diseases noted in retail outlets, landscapes and native stands of trees and shrubs

Day lily rust has been reported twice in imported day lilies at retail centers of northeast Kansas in recent days. Levels have been high and plants have been destroyed when inspectors find them.

Dutch Elm disease of American Elm is just beginning to be ob-

served in Kansas. A sighting was made near Council Grove in east central Kansas one week ago.

In landscapes, pine tip blight of Austrian pine can be observed from infection periods in early May. Verticillium wilt was reported in Japanese barberry

in a private residence in Manhattan. Brown patch of fescue lawns has had a few reports.

Damage from the Easter freeze is still evident in some trees and hedges in Kansas. Fruit trees have no fruit. Yews have been reported to be declining in the northeast from crown death.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL
PROGRAM

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Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

New staff join KDA Plant Protection Program

This spring saw the retirements of Mike Shuman, export specialist and Steve White, area specialist for east central and southeast Kansas. Those two positions and the filling of a job vacancy in southwest has added three new people to the Plant Protection Program.

Terry Clarkson transferred from the Pesticide program to fill the southwest area position.

Tom Sanders transferred from the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Specialist position within the program to the area position in east central Kansas that Steve White held.

Laurinda Romonda from Topeka has filled the Cooperative Ag Pest Survey Specialist position in Topeka. Laurinda comes to KDA from a private biological laboratory in Topeka.

Kitty Crooks will be joining the staff in July to fill the export position that Mike Shuman vacated. She joins the staff from the Florida Department of Agriculture where she was a nursery inspector. Kitty returns to Kansas as she grew up in Linn County.